

23 August 1965

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Chinese Communist Activities in Thailand

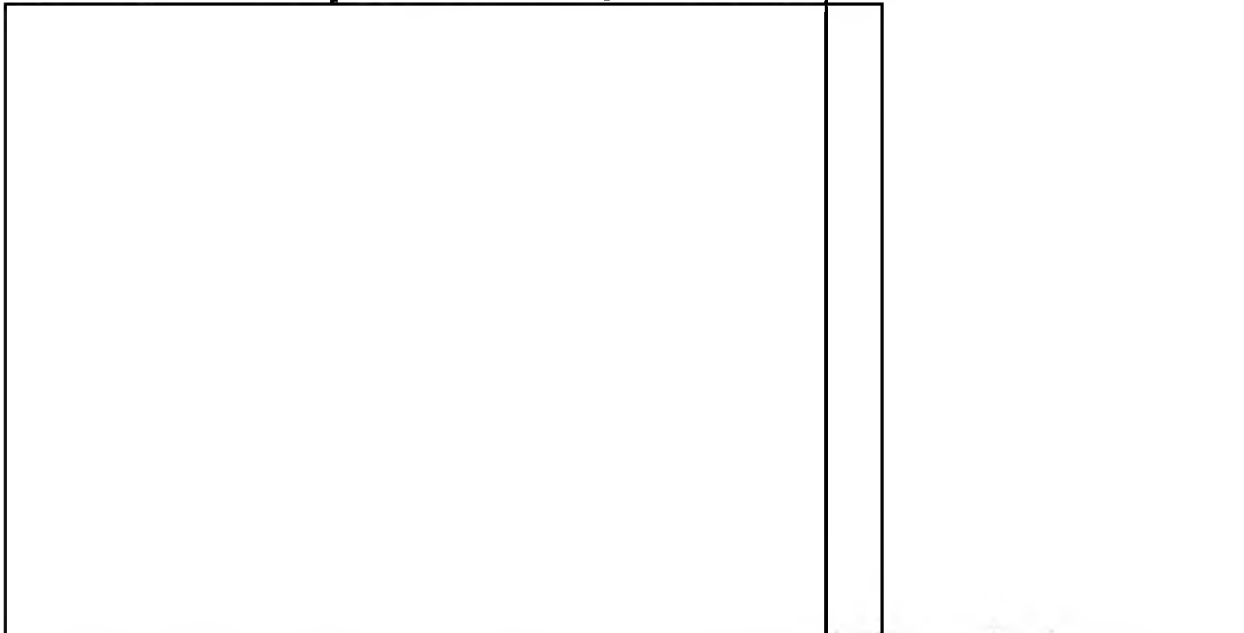
1. Communist China's continuing interest in Thailand has been chronicled in Chinese statements over the past 15 years. At various times during this period, Peiping has mounted propaganda campaigns which appeared to signal new militant anti-Thai policies. The most ominous of these campaigns, because of both its intensity and its timing, is now underway.

2. The current round of Chinese verbal attacks against the Bangkok government began late last year. It was heralded in a 1 October New China News Agency (NCNA) statement which quoted a message from the Thai Communist Party praising the "correct leadership of the Chinese Communist Party" and calling for the formation of a "patriotic, democratic united front" in Thailand. On 8 December the clandestine Voice of the Thai People [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] announced the formation of the Thai Independence Movement. In a revealing example of coordination, a "manifesto" of the movement, calling for the withdrawal of US forces in Thailand, the overthrow of the Thanom government, and the establishment of a neutralist regime, was carried by NCNA five days later. Hanoi radio also took note of the new front.

3. The tempo of Peiping's effort picked up in early 1965. In February, another Thai "front," this one called the Thai Patriotic Front, received heavy play in Chinese, North Vietnamese, and Pathet Lao news organs. In March, two "liaison representatives" of the newly created fronts, Monkon na Nakhon and Phayon Chulanont, were surfaced at a banquet in Peiping. Both were quickly given international exposure at Communist-front conferences in North Vietnam and Ghana. They reiterated what had already become characteristic charges that the "Sarit-Thanom clique" had sold Thailand to US "imperialism." A more menacing tone was evident, however, in threats to "destroy" and "crush" the "enemy." This line was explicitly stated at the Asian-African Solidarity Conference in warnings that the Thai people were determined "to fight back with violence."

4. There are at least two major reasons why Communist China is supporting the activities of these fronts. First, Chinese leaders undoubtedly view the formation of such front groups--which purport to be neutralist and nationalist--as a preliminary step in a long up-hill struggle to undermine the stable and pro-West Thai government.



The Chinese have also been busy with psychological ploys, including planting stories in various quarters that "guerrilla warfare" might break out in Thailand this year.

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